

Amusements To-Night.

THEATRE OPERA—8:15—“Virginia.”
THEATRE OPERA—8:15—“The Cordon Brothers.”
THEATRE OPERA—8:15—“The Queen's Lace Handkerchief.”
THEATRE OPERA—8:15—“Serge Panine.”
THEATRE OPERA—8:15—“Romeo and Juliet.”
THEATRE OPERA—8:15—“Miles.”
THEATRE OPERA—8:15—“The Black Flag.”
THEATRE OPERA—8:15—“The Silver King.”

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Business Notices.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—In the French Chamber of Deputies yesterday, M. Fabre's bill was passed; it prohibits the Primes from filling any civil or military position and empowers the President to decree their expulsion. —Edmund Yates, the proprietor of *The World*, has been sued for libel by the Earl of Londonderry. —The coronation of the Czar is now fixed for May 27. —Prince Bismarck is ill. —The Turkish army is to be reorganized. —Mr. Chamberlain delivered a speech on the Parliamentary outlook.

CONGRESS.—In the Senate yesterday a joint resolution was introduced providing for an amendment to the Constitution empowering the President to veto one or more items in an appropriation bill, the veto not to affect other portions of the bill. Mr. Morrill introduced a resolution suspending the coinage of silver dollars. The sugar and tobacco schedules of the tariff bill were discussed. —In the House the drug schedule of the tariff bill was further considered.

DOMESTIC.—The Secretary of the Treasury yesterday issued a call for bonds. —The President has appointed the Assay Commission. —D. M. Sabon was elected United States Senator from Minnesota. —Much property in Acton, Mass., was damaged by an explosion in a mill of the American Powder Company's works. —A family in Wilkesbarre was found starving to death. —The *Edwin* was the ice-yacht that on the Hudson. —The Secretary of the Navy will sustain the authorities of the Naval Academy in the difficulty with cadets.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—The meeting at the Cooper Union last night in the interest of protection to American industry was addressed by William M. Everts, Dexter A. Hawkins, and others. —The human pier was entirely destroyed by fire yesterday; the loss was about \$500,000. —A reception was given to Dr. Seymour Haden by the New-York Academy of Medicine. —Fire escapes were ordered on the Hoffman House and Leggett's Hotel. —The Chamber of Commerce passed resolutions condemning the Carey bill. —A pedler was murdered by thieves at Port Chester. —Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (412 1/2 grains), 88.45 cents. —Stocks were more active, but lower, and closed weak at a small rally from the lowest figures.

THE WEATHER.—Tribune local observations indicate colder and clear or fair weather. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 34°; lowest, 19°; average, 27°.

The Mexican variety of duel appears to be the most barbarous on record. Two men, or rather butchers, armed themselves with axes, locked themselves in a room, and fought until the head of one was severed from his body and the other was so hacked and slashed that he cannot live. This eclipses anything in the way of ingenious homicide which the “chivalrous” South has been able to invent.

Another cold wave is rolling over the West, but there are no definite assurances that it will reach our section of the country. According to all the well-established “signs” the thunder and lightning of Wednesday foretold the speedy break-up of winter and an early spring. This will be bad for Messrs. Vennor and Wiggins, who have put down all their abject storms for February and March, but it will be a cause for rejoicing for the rest of the American people.

The mass-meeting at the Cooper Institute last evening took up the great subject of the protection of American industries in a sober and judicious spirit. There was no clap-trap, no attempt to arouse excitement by specious appeals. The hall was crowded and the audience was of substantial quality, an intelligent, earnest gathering. It was fortunate in its presiding officer, for no more devoted friend of American industries and of American workmen than Peter Cooper can be found. Mr. Everts, the effect of whose eloquent address will be felt far beyond the walls of the great hall in which he spoke. On the platform were some of the most respected and most influential citizens of New-York. The resolutions put tersely the American policy of adequate protection while calling upon Congress to reduce the duties within reasonable limits. Altogether this meeting had the right ring.

The fire which swept the Inman pier out of existence almost as if it were built of straw ought to set the steamship companies to thinking. Few of them have piers which would

not vanish as quickly if the flames once get a start. Would it not be more profitable in the long run to put up a different class of structures than to run the constant risk of so swift and thorough destruction as we have just seen? Longshoremen unloading vessels at night cannot be so closely watched as to prevent danger from matches and pipes, and in these enormous wooden sheds, stored with combustible property it is a very little spark that kindles a great fire. This is a question chiefly for the steamship and insurance companies to settle for themselves, for the loss of the Dock Department is small in comparison with theirs, and fires on the water front rarely threaten a wide area. But the companies cannot afford to dismiss it lightly.

M. de Giers's visit to the capitals of the Continent has served to introduce him to the Envoys Extraordinary of the press, if it has not promoted the ends of European peace. Succeeding one of the veteran diplomats of the Continent, he was a new man in the Russian Foreign Office. He had been Prince Gortschakoff's deputy and confidential adviser for many years, but had not held any diplomatic post more prominent than Stockholm or Tehran, and consequently was not so well known in the great capitals as either Count Schouvaloff or Prince Lobanoff. During his recent journey from capital to capital he has succeeded in making his mission mysterious and has piqued the curiosity of the special correspondents. They cannot hereafter leave him out of their diplomatic calculations. There is a new piece on the chess-board, apparently a knight, for his zig-zags from one court to another and invariably causes a flutter of uneasiness and expectation.

The New-York Chamber of Commerce yesterday adopted a memorial to Congress in favor of the Fisher bill to limit the coinage of silver dollars to the requirement of the people. If this Congress fails to put a stop to the worst than useless accumulation of silver in the Treasury vaults it will not be from lack of warning. On what principle can any legislator defend further persistence in this costly blunder? When the Silver bill was passed over President Hayes's veto, the men who voted for it could at least say that there was an urgent demand in certain parts of the country that the experiment be tried. The experiment has been tried fully and fairly and has resulted in nothing but mischief. The people will not have the silver dollars. Why continue to coin them? If Congressmen would listen to the anxious appeals of such men as the members of our Chamber of Commerce, who have no private interests to serve, instead of heeding the clamor of mine-owners and their friends, this constant menace to the prosperity of the country would be promptly removed.

The brave stand against train robbers which the express agent made on the Central Pacific train the other day appears to have aroused the constabulary forces of Nevada and Utah to unwonted activity. It probably occurred to them that if one express agent was powerful enough to repulse a gang of bandits, it ought not to be an impossible task for a sufficient force of officers to capture the same band. They went to work on some such basis anyway, organized themselves into a force of eighteen well armed men, and started on the trail of the robbers. They learned that the latter were in a “stockade” in the mountains about fifty miles north of Deseret. On the way to it two of the bandits were severely wounded in a fight and taken into custody. The advance was then continued and the “stockade” was reached soon afterward. This the sheriffs completely surrounded, and upon learning their situation the three remaining robbers surrendered without a struggle. The five constituted one of the most audacious and successful of the Western gangs of thieves, and their capture is a great triumph for law and order. If the other sections of the West which are infested with similar ranges would develop as much pluck in opposing and capturing them as was exhibited in this case we should soon hear the last of train-robbing.

ACTION WANTED.

Congress has only about one month left, in which to finish action on matters of surpassing importance. Business throughout the country is much disturbed; millions of working men and women and capital amounting to thousands of millions look to the action of Senators and Representatives for relief. It is important to realize that failure to act at this session will prolong the uncertainty and consequent stagnation until next winter, unless the President should deem it his duty to call an extra session. Those in this Congress who are clamorous for the most radical and dangerous changes will be in a majority in the next Congress. The failure of this Congress to act can hardly fail, therefore, to cause general apprehension of far more harmful legislation than has of late been feared. In such an emergency, the first duty of every member is to attend every session, and see that delay is at no time caused by his failure to vote. Members who are absent must expect that their names will be published day by day, and at the close of the session. Their reasons for absence they will need to give to the people who have trusted them.

The next duty, and it is a most pressing one, is to avoid waste of time by useless speeches and unimportant motions. When Mr. Beck protests that he is not going to take time unnecessarily, and then persists in delivering a speech of a column or two in length on every small amendment, offering amendments himself continually so that he makes the occasions for speaking more frequent, his desire that the public business shall go forward is illustrated. There are many others who know much less than he does about the business and who offer more unreasonable amendments and make speeches that are even less calculated to accomplish any practical result. Unless a member has reason to believe that he can change some vote by talking, he has no right in a time like this to be showing himself off for the benefit of constituents. Neither has he any right to waste time by offering amendments that have reason to know will not be accepted by the body. Congress is not in session this month for the personal exhibition of members. Its duty is to get the public business done; to relieve all business by deciding as soon as possible under what laws industry must exist hereafter.

This Congress deliberately decided at the last session, after wearisome discussion, that it could not properly attempt to act upon every detail of a tariff bill without previous investigation by a commission of experts. It created such a commission, whose work has now been carefully revised by the chosen committees of both Houses. Legislation is absolutely impossible, if every member is to offer and advocate all the amendments he can think of. Members have a right to judge whether the bills before them deserve support or not, and to make honest efforts when they have reason to hope that a majority may side with them to secure what they deem a better bill. But they have no right to prevent the passage of any bill by

insisting upon frivolous attempts to change and pointless debate. Still less have they a right at any emergency whatever to block the wheels of legislation by resort to revolutionary filibustering. If the Democrats attempt to defeat action in that way, the Republicans can well afford to insist upon immediate decision of pending questions, and thus to throw upon the Democratic party the responsibility for an extra session. The last experiment of that sort did not result so well, that the Democrats should be encouraged to make another.

PILING UP THE CITY'S BURDENS.

The “Home Rule” Democrats from this city had things all their own way at Albany yesterday. They reported an Excise bill that will still further reduce the revenue from that source by providing for the transfer of licenses, and which will make law-breaking safer by prohibiting arrests for violating excise laws except upon warrants. They then got through the Assembly their bill to add \$750,000 a year to the tax burdens of the city by increasing the pay of firemen and policemen. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment in December last refused to provide for police matrons, and the Police Board declared that there was no need for them. The Home Rule Democrats therefore got the Assembly yesterday to pass the bill to compel the city authorities to appoint the matrons and thus add another \$600,000 to the yearly expenditures. The local authorities have not apparently deemed it wise at present to open a new street from Ninth-ave. to One-hundred-and-fifty-second-st. to McComb's Dam; so the Assembly passed a bill to compel them to go to that expense immediately. M. C. Murphy reported from his committee a bill for an additional appropriation of \$50,000 from the city treasury for the adult blind, and Senator Browning introduced a bill to appropriate \$100,000 for a new armory.

Among the other bills of similar character recently introduced, some of which have been favorably considered, are the following: Appropriating \$70,000 for a new police station in the Twenty-eighth Precinct; increasing the pay of a court interpreter; compelling the payment of an Assistant Alderman; to build a new Hall of Records; providing for a new public park on the East Side; and increasing the number of policemen. It is hardly a month since the local authorities, after full consideration, refused to sanction appropriations for nearly every one of the objects sought to be accomplished by these bills; and yet the party that prates about home rule sends men to Albany who defy the local authorities and laugh at the complaining taxpayers. These bills, all of which have a good chance of becoming laws, will take from the city treasury not less than four or five million dollars. As Governor Cleveland has approved the bill to relieve the election inspectors who forfeited their pay by violating the law, the taxpayers will cherish no very sanguine hopes of relief from that quarter.

THE CANAL GUARANTEES.

The text of Lord Granville's circular to the Powers on Egyptian affairs, which we find in the English exchanges, contains eight specific rules respecting the Suez Canal. These regulations have been accurately stated in the cable dispatches, and we see no reason to modify the views which we have recently expressed in regard to them. The first declares that the canal shall be free for the passage of all ships in any circumstances. The second imposes in time of war a limitation of time as to ships of war of a belligerent remaining in the canal, and forbids the disembarkation of troops and munitions of war. The third prohibits hostilities in the canal or its approaches, or elsewhere in the territorial waters of Egypt, even in the event of Turkey being one of the belligerents. The fourth exempts measures necessary for the defence of Egypt from the two foregoing rules. The fifth, anticipating any violation of the third rule, binds any Power whose war vessels do any damage to the canal to bear the cost of its immediate repair. The seventh prohibits the erection of fortifications on the canal or in its vicinity. The remaining two rules define the rights of the Egyptian Government. It will be observed that the only privilege from which England cuts herself off is that of fortifying the mouths of the canal. Under the fourth rule she reserves to herself the right of occupying the canal, disembarking troops and munitions of war, and of fighting not only in the channel itself, but elsewhere in the territorial waters of Egypt. That is to say, under the proposed international guarantees, the British inviolability can again batter down the fortifications of Alexandria and engage in artillery practice at Aboukir and Rosetta, and General Wolsley can make laudable use of active military operations, provided these measures are “necessary for the defence of Egypt.” Indeed, Lord Granville does not admit that the naval and military operations of last summer were in any way “infringements of this general principle.” He would probably deny that there was technically anything like a war in Egypt. The Khedive, he would say, was provided temporarily with a foreign army or police force, and the British were in no sense of the word belligerents, but only a useful and benevolent ally.

The second rule, as we contended a fortnight ago, a positive limitation on the use of the canal as a harbor of refuge. If Great Britain and France were at war, their fleets could not remain in the canal for an indefinite period; they would have to cruise a league or more outside either mouth; and after a stated time a French vessel of war at Port Said or Suez would have to run the British blockade. Under the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty the Panama Canal would be a harbor of refuge for an indefinite period to a vessel of either belligerent. In the Suez Canal this right will be restricted. The rule, however, is not one that can be easily enforced. How can a fleet or a single vessel be ejected from the channel, if it refuses to go out when the time expires? Certainly the Egyptian Government will be powerless to enforce the rule, if no fortifications are to be allowed on the banks. The war vessel remaining in the canal after the period sanctioned by international agreement will have to be expelled by other war vessels. This would involve naval operations in the channel or in its approaches. “It would be lawful,” says *The Pall Mall Gazette*, “to enforce obedience by belligerent operations in the canal. The Egyptian Government could invite the ships of any of the signatory Powers to assist in enforcing the conditions of the treaty.” That is to say, if England and France were at war, the Khedive could invite the British admiral to send a few cruisers into the canal and drive out a French war vessel, possibly sinking her in the attempt. This could be done on international grounds, although it might not be necessary for the defence of Egypt; and the bill of damages could be charged to England under the fifth rule.

There is one contingency for which no provision is made in these regulations. What would happen if the Khedive should declare war upon England? Obviously, Egypt could

not be “defended” against the will of its sovereign, although it was “defended” last summer against the will of its people. The fourth rule could not in that event be construed as exempting England from the prohibitions of the second and third rules. If the fortifications of Alexandria were bombarded, the canal invaded and a column set in motion from Ismailia to Tel-el-Kebir, the international engagements would be violated. *The Daily Telegraph* frankly concedes this point. “The neutral ‘character of the canal,’ it says, ‘could not be respected. England guarantees the independence and neutrality of Belgium, but could not continue to do so, if she herself elected to become a belligerent against us.’ If Egypt becomes hostile to England, the guarantees will no longer hold. Of course this is a contingency remote to be seriously considered. British prestige will not be allowed to languish at the Khedive and his successors will be constantly reminded that the English Codin is the friend, not the French Short. It is England that will defend Egypt, whenever force arises within its borders or without.”

These regulations meet with the unanimous approval of the English press. It is not strange. The only privilege which is conceded, that of fortifying the mouths, is of little value now that Egypt is practically to be administered by an English Finance Minister and a military staff. The remaining regulations are wholly in the interest of that Government which has the strongest navy in the world. These privileges cannot, moreover, be justly withheld. England ought to have some exclusive rights in the Isthmus of Suez, for her interests, commercial and imperial, in the interoceanic canal are paramount. In like manner, the United States, having a supreme interest in the security and control of the Panama Canal, will insist upon having its exclusive rights recognized. The Suez rules will not afford a precedent for the Panama Canal, simply because the country which has most at stake in Darien is a pacific empire without dependencies in every quarter of the world which render a formidable navy a necessity. The United States must have some other means of controlling the Panama Canal.

NEWSPAPER HISTORY.

The art of indexing tends to make one of Lord Macaulay's sayings very impressive. “The only true history of a country is to be found in its newspapers.” Here *The Tribune* for 1882, containing 110 daily files of the *Tribune*, with an average of 130 references to the page, and an aggregate of over 15,000 for 365 issues. This is a formidable array of material, and a typical head for “the only true history” of a single year as found in the columns of one newspaper; and there may be thousands of newspapers in a single country, and there are few countries on this terrestrial ball where newspapers are not printed. Who, then, can hope to keep abreast with the contemporaneous history of the world?

As one turns the pages of the Index he is painfully impressed with the vicissitudes of human reputation. As the contents of the 365 issues are analyzed in these orderly pages, important figures acquire a fantastic prominence, while those who tower above them in genius and authority remain to obscurity. Perry Belmont is promoted to the fictitious dignity of twenty-one distinct topical references, while Gambetta is allowed nineteen and Bismarck only four. Oscar Wilde with twenty-two entries is a formidable competitor in the race for fame with Longfellow and Emerson. George C. Miln is mentioned five times, where Lee XIII. and Archbishop Tait are named once. The Malley brothers appear in thirty-six issues, whereas Darwin is dismissed with eight references, and Herbert Spencer, notwithstanding the pains he has taken to make the acquaintance of the American people, with four. In some instances the honors are distributed impartially. Governor Cleveland has 29 names; Governor Butler, 26; Secretary Folger, 24; and Thurlow Weed, 26. The President of the United States is credited with 55 entries, and the British Premier with 45. President Garfield, though dead, has 70 lines, keeping close behind his most intimate political associate, Mr. Hall, who has 63. Yet the sense of disproportion most startling as the head of the column is reached. Who is it that has been mentioned most frequently in the columns of *The Tribune* during the last year of grace? Not President Garfield, nor Mr. Blaine, nor President Arthur, nor Governor Cornell, nor John Kelly, nor Mr. Gladstone, nor Prince Bismarck, nor M. Gambetta, nor Mr. Parnell, nor General Wolsley, nor Arabi Bey. The Index records 92 distinct references to Charles J. Guiteau, the highest number given to any individual name. Even in death the most craven and despicable of assassins has the full measure of notoriety which his small soul craved during his depraved and hideous life. Valued cheap though he was, he cannot be denied the space which his name occupies in the records of the year.

A closer scrutiny of the Index reveals aspects of journalism less incongruous than those which we have been considering. The proportions of the various classes of information in the course of a year are clearly discerned in these pages. There are 639 references to Congressional proceedings, 230 to the New-York Legislature, 83 to political conventions, and 550 to general political topics. This survey shows that politics remain the main staple of newspaper production. At the same time business interests assume formidable proportions. Here are 540 references to railroads alone; 132 failures are recorded; 150 financial topics are considered; 230 firms involving serious losses to insurance companies are mentioned; and entries are made under numerous other headings, such as agriculture, banks, business, commerce, insurance, mining, tariff, telegraph, and trade. In court practice 450 cases have been reported during the year, exclusive of civil and criminal notes of minor importance. Intelligence from foreign countries is found in the Index to bear the relative proportions which American readers would naturally expect. Great Britain heads the list with 151 entries; Ireland and Egypt are close together with 140 and 139; and France comes next with 106. The list of heads of “literary” are classed 529 references to new publications which have been reviewed in detail and not dismissed with a brief paragraph. In other departments of criticism, music, drama and fine arts, and in educational matters and special branches of science, similar exhibits are made. The ordinary list of 60 names, and all classes of local and miscellaneous news, give evidence of the completeness and comprehensiveness of the modern newspaper. Take, for instance, a special field of inquiry like forestry; it is curious to find as many as twenty references to the files of the year, arranged so as to be intelligible to a specialist at a single glance. Yes; and the women are not passed over in silence. They have their special column, with 53 entries, beginning with “bearded,” “beauty rules,” “Blue Anchor Society,” and “Boston,” and slanting down through “sallees” and “suffrage” to the solid ground of “work and wages,” without a single invidious cross-reference to “fashions” or “weddings.”

The Index for 1882 contains, as a preface to the body of the general alphabet of reference lines, the annual summary of events, published in *The Tribune* on the last day of the year. Being a review of the principal events in the political history of the leading nations, it properly precedes the analytical work of the Index itself. This volume is compiled primarily for the convenience of *The Tribune* staff, who are spared in this way the drudgery of ransacking the files. It is a key, however, which will work in many other locks than the one which it matches precisely, and it can be safely recommended to journalists, authors, librarians, lawyers, politicians and business men as a most useful work of reference. The price is 50 cents for a single copy, sent post-paid to any address.

Boston is suffused with a gentle glow of pride on account of a recent circular issued by the Smithsonian Institution announcing the transfer to Harvard College Observatory of the business connected with the astronomical observations of the year. It appears that up to 1878 America relied upon Europe for the orbits of planets and as computations were made at the various observatories only for their own use, there was no system for generally disseminating the results, which were learned usually only from the German periodical, the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, after a delay of six or eight weeks. In 1878 the Boston Scientific Society began the publication of the orbits of comets in *The Science Observer*, and special circulars were distributed to American astronomers directly upon the completion of the mathematical work by the observers. These computations were at first made by Mr. S. C. Chandler, Jr., and their publication attracted attention, both from the accuracy of the work and the short time consumed in presenting the results. *The Science Observer* code, which is self-checking, was invented for sending astronomical information abroad by cable, and observations of orbits were sent to Boston and then telegraphed abroad without error and with little lapse of time that the orbits were several times published in both Europe and America within four days of the discovery. In the observations of the great comet of 1882 *The Science Observer* circulars, which were sent by mail from Lord Crawford's observatory at Dun Echt and from Berlin as centres, proved invaluable to foreign observers. An astronomical union was formed abroad with a centre at Kiel, Prussia, and Messrs. Chandler and Ritchie were requested to act as distributors for the United States. They referred the matter to the director of the Harvard Observatory, who has accepted the task. The Smithsonian Institution, which some years ago, through the efforts of Professor Peters, entered into a reciprocal arrangement with foreign observatories in regard to the transmission of astronomical news, has now formally transferred the work of collecting astronomical information in this country to the Harvard Observatory—a distinction which appears to have been well merited by the faithful work of the Boston astronomers.

A member of the recent “Enslaved Congress” represented *The Tribune* as having recommended “roots as substitute” for the new-fangled fodder. Our only reference to that phase of the subject was an incidental allusion to succulent mangels as a suitable feed in connection with the standard dry of well-cured hay. Many decades, if not centuries, of European practice are back of that wise system, and the most far-fetched live stock keepers in the older sections of this side the Atlantic are coming more and more to recognize its advantages. For example, Mr. J. S. Woodward reported to our rural readers a while ago the details of his practice in producing each year on his Niagara County farm, from 1,200 to 1,500 bushels of roots for sheep and cattle; Colonel P. D. Curtis finds profit even in the “wastery turnip” for use in his celebrated pig-raising, and our country editions lately contained notice of a wide section of Canada where the custom is to devote annually from five to twenty-five, and in some cases forty to sixty, acres of each farm to carrots, beets and rutabagas for winter use in pens and stables. Nevertheless, we have not failed to recognize fairly the large promise of the “silbo boom” and what it implies, but it is doubtless true that there are many careful, successful, conservative old farmers among us who still feel inclined to entertain toward ensilage the investigating, if not critical, spirit implied by the significant announcement and cross-question: “Roots we know, but who are you?”

A prominent lawyer of this city, who has a keen eye for errors in statistics, writes: “I have searched as with a lighted candle, or to employ a modern phrase, as with an Edison incandescent lamp, and can say that so far as my knowledge extends, *THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC* for 1883 is absolutely without spot and without blemish.” The three blemishes which this painstaking critic has been able to detect are trivial, but we are under obligations to him for pointing them out, as they can be easily removed in the second edition, which will be issued speedily. The inaccuracies are (1) a transposition of the votes for Governor of Colorado in Lake and Jefferson Counties—a misplacement which does not affect the footing; (2) an incorrect initial letter in the name of Samuel H. Treat, Jr., District Judge in Illinois, an “A” being substituted for the “H,” a mistake, by the way, which occurred in the manuscript list of the Department of Justice; (3) the substitution of “James” for “John” in Judge Sharpsteen's name in the “Addendum.” These are pen-and-ink inaccuracies, when the enormous labor of collecting so large a body of political statistics is borne in mind.

PERSONAL.
 Mr. Hubert Herkimer of this city, who has a keen eye for errors in statistics, writes: “I have searched as with a lighted candle, or to employ a modern phrase, as with an Edison incandescent lamp, and can say that so far as my knowledge extends, *THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC* for 1883 is absolutely without spot and without blemish.” The three blemishes which this painstaking critic has been able to detect are trivial, but we are under obligations to him for pointing them out, as they can be easily removed in the second edition, which will be issued speedily. The inaccuracies are (1) a transposition of the votes for Governor of Colorado in Lake and Jefferson Counties—a misplacement which does not affect the footing; (2) an incorrect initial letter in the name of Samuel H. Treat, Jr., District Judge in Illinois, an “A” being substituted for the “H,” a mistake, by the way, which occurred in the manuscript list of the Department of Justice; (3) the substitution of “James” for “John” in Judge Sharpsteen's name in the “Addendum.” These are pen-and-ink inaccuracies, when the enormous labor of collecting so large a body of political statistics is borne in mind.

Friends and admirers of Mr. Holman Hunt will regret much to learn that his great picture of “The Flight into Egypt” has been irretrievably ruined by the stretching of the Syrian canvas on which it was painted. He was forced to use Syrian canvas after waiting six months in vain for canvas ordered from England. Time the labor of years has been lost, but with characteristic energy he has already set to work to reproduce it on a new canvas.

Of the late Baron Martin it is related that, with his usual desire to be expeditious, he once sentenced a convicted murderer to be hanged and dismissed him without a customary and important formula. The clerk reminded him of the omission. “Ah, yes, quite so,” exclaimed the judge; “bring the prisoner back. Prisoner at the bar, I beg your pardon. My Lord have mercy on your soul. Remove the prisoner, jailer. Next case!”

A veteran artist, indeed, was Edward Wellmore, who died in Philadelphia a few days ago. His career as a painter extended over a period of nearly sixty years, for he executed his first pictures—portraits on ivory—while yet “in his teens,” and he worked constantly almost up to the day of his death, which occurred at the age of seventy-five years. One of his latest works was a large portrait of the late Senator Benjamin H. Hill, of Georgia.

Charles P. Smith, who died in Trenton, N. J., last week, was for many years before the war one of the most influential Whig and afterward Republican politicians in that State. Through his influence William L. Dayton was nominated with Fremont in 1856 and Charles S. Olden elected Governor in 1869. In 1860 he was a delegate to the Chicago Convention and played a prominent part in securing the nomination of Lincoln. During the war he was at the head of the New Jersey Sanitary Association. For some years before his death he has been in private life and had devoted his attention exclusively to literary pursuits.

“Edmund Yates,” says Mr. Joseph Hutton in *The North Times* (England), “amused Stanley as much as the distinguished little crowd who were listening the other night to a pathetic recitation of the discovery of Livingstone. ‘And the old servant, lifting up his hands, exclaimed: “Tanquillo, mullu nunguani tangungu,” and Stanley, as we hung upon the words, I thought that was what he said,’ interpolated Mr. Yates, in a subdued voice. Nobody laughed more than Stanley. The interruption was a relief to some of our feelings; for the story was full of a tender pathos, and Mr. Yates had quoted correctly the native words of the native servant. But they are near enough for the purpose.”

Mr. Reginald Wilberforce, by his biographical escape (to revert once more to a much hapier theme) has given the world a good excuse for selling to the junkman in February the diary upon which the earliest sun of January smiled so auspiciously. Said Canon Fleming to a London congregation the other Sunday: “It is often thought a great advantage and help to keep a journal, but it would seem from the biography of a great man which is now before the world that the disadvantages are sometimes as great as the benefits; for an exuberant nature may be tempted at the moment to set down things which afterward see the light, but which ought to have been regarded as sacred and inviolable.”

late, no matter whose the hand that culled the materials for the life given to the public.”

GENERAL NOTES.

One of the most interesting features of the National Exposition of Railroad Appliances to be held in Chicago from May 24 to June 23, the present year will be a collection of antiquated objects which having had their day now serve no purpose except to illustrate the marvellous development of railway mechanics. The travelling public would be glad to see in that collection several appliances which are still in use, including a specimen of two of the wheels which are rolled from November to March, except when they have been out in the ashes of a railroad wreck.

The exasperating oddities of the German tariff system are illustrated by several holiday stories from Berlin. Desiring to enrich his New-Year table with a delicate net to be obtained in perfection at the German capital, a gentleman ordered from Paris a pair of truffled fowls, which duly arrived in excellent condition. But the duty on them was \$5, which no amount of expostulation could reduce, it being as being stuffed with truffles, they were held and customs officials, to be all truffles, and assessed accordingly. Another German story is of a supply of Parisian confectioes which were included in straw baskets of such a shape that an incorrect official forthwith classified them as “ladies' flippers.”

At the last meeting of the Philadelphia County Medical Society a man was exhibited who had not and never has had teeth, hair, taste or smell. Moreover the microscope declares that his skin is absolutely without pores, an omission on the part of Nature which has hitherto been considered fatal. But Mr. Peter Wendling has lived to be forty-eight years old, has enjoyed uniform health, and has been able to do his work in all weathers, when he finds it necessary to keep his clothing soaking wet to reduce the temperature of his body. He is a native of Germany, and his name is Lebnach, and is the father of eight children, all of whom are free from his physical peculiarities, barring the fact that there is not a hair on their bodies.

Among the subjects which, during the present dark season, the English newspapers have made to do yeoman's service in their prying columns, the monogamy, its habits, disposition and attainments, is easily pre-eminent. If a single fact, fancy or hypothesis relating to that ingenious creature has escaped publication, it is not the fault of English editors. The origin of this universal discussion, the text from which this vast explication has been evolved, was a simple paragraph in an Australian paper announcing that one hundred pairs of monogamous were about to be sent from India to New Zealand and the hope that they and their progeny would exterminate the rabbits which are devastating that colony. One thing seems to have been settled by the discussion, and that is that the monogamous is not proof against the venom of the cobra. There is apparently no escape from the conclusions of Charles Darwin, that the monogamous is a creature of the “roots as substitute” for the new-fangled fodder. Our only reference to that phase of the subject was an incidental allusion to succulent mangels as a suitable feed in connection with the standard dry of well-cured hay. Many decades, if not centuries, of European practice are back of that wise system, and the most far-fetched live stock keepers in the older sections of this side the Atlantic are coming more and more to recognize its advantages.

For example, Mr. J. S. Woodward reported to our rural readers a while ago the details of his practice in producing each year on his Niagara County farm, from 1,200 to 1,500 bushels of roots for sheep and cattle; Colonel P. D. Curtis finds profit even in the “wastery turnip” for use in his celebrated pig-raising, and our country editions lately contained notice of a wide section of Canada where the custom is to devote annually from five to twenty-five, and in some cases forty to sixty, acres of each farm to carrots, beets and rutabagas for winter use in pens and stables. Nevertheless, we have not failed to recognize fairly the large promise of the “silbo boom” and what it implies, but it is doubtless true that there are many careful, successful, conservative old farmers among us who still feel inclined to entertain toward ensilage the investigating, if not critical, spirit implied by the significant announcement and cross-question: “Roots we know, but who are you?”

PUBLIC OPINION.

SENATOR EDMUNDS'S POPULARITY IN THE WEST.

The closeness of the contest for the Presidency, we believe, taught the people of the West that the Republican Presidential candidate to all intents and purposes must be made prominent in all sections of the Union, and the increasing disposition of the Western people to welcome the name of Senator Edmunds as a Presidential candidate has been a result of this feeling. It is a spontaneous conviction everywhere in the party lines that in 1884 only the “best man” will win.

TAXING THE PEOPLE TO COIN SILVER DOLLARS.

There has been some talk a Governmental economy of late, out of which silver has been excluded. The people, however, are not so easily duped. They know that the national reputation is at stake, and that the Government has not done so far. Though it costs 2,300,000 to produce one dollar out of what is only \$2.30, it has not compelled its creditors to take them.

DANCING UNDER A BURDEN OF REFORMS.

Governor Butler evidently draws the line at dancing. In his collection of speeches at the North Eastern symposium, he remarked that when he could see the ball in the hand of every man, because he is a man, when he could see the ball in the hand of every woman, because she is a woman, when he could see the ball in the hand of every child, because he is a child, when he could see the ball in the hand of every old man, because he is an old man, when he could see the ball in the hand of every